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SECRETARY, AERB & DIRECTOR
Information & Technical Services Division

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PRESS RELEASE

Incident of Radioactive Material discovered in Scrap Dealers Shops in New Delhi

This is in connection with the recovery of radioactive material from the scrap metal market in Mayapuri, Delhi.

The officials of AERB, DAE and NDRF have carried out a clean-up operation in the Mayapuri area over the week-end of 15 and 16 of May 2010, as planned earlier.

It will be recalled that all the Cobalt-60 sources from the disposed off gamma cell had been recovered earlier. This was confirmed on the basis of an inventory check of the material transferred to Narora as well as from the radiation surveys carried out in the Mayapuri market area earlier. However, some traces of dust or particles of Cobalt-60 arising from cutting of the radioactive pieces have left some contamination in local spots. Radiation from these spots was far below levels which could pose any immediate health detriment. This was indicated in the official statement during the Lok Sabha debate on 6th May 2010. One of the shops in the Mayapuri area No.D2/32 has been kept sealed for this reason.

To apprise the scrap dealers of Mayapuri of the situation and to inform them about further actions, an awareness programme was conducted for them on May 6, 2010. During the programme they were told about the radiological status of the shop D2/32 and higher than normal radiation levels existing in small spots outside the shop. The dealers were also told that the shop and the adjoining area will soon be cleared of radioactive contamination.

Accordingly, the clean-up operation carried out over the week-end has brought-down the radiation levels significantly. However further clean-up work will be continued during the following week-end, so as to cause minimal disruption in normal activities in the market.

Ramamurthy 18/5/2010
for (Om Pal Singh)



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